IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 3 and 4 as follows:

A thread tensioning assembly at 54 is provided on the peripheral wall 47 and is in the form of a spring element 60 that is curved to nominally match the curvature of the outside surface 62 of the peripheral wall 47. The spring element [[50]] 60 is maintained on the peripheral wall 47 by a screw fastener 64. The curved spring element 60 overlies all, or part, of the thread receiving opening 50, and a portion of the slot 52. The spring element 60 has an elongate body 66 with a mounting portion 68 that is fixed to the peripheral wall 47 through the screw fastener 64. The free end 70 of the body 66, remote from the mounting portion 68, has an offset finger 72 which projects into an opening 74, and interacts with an edge 78, bounding the opening 74, in such a manner that the free end 70 is confined against axial shifting relative to the peripheral wall 47. A second offset finger 80 on the spring element 60 projects into a slot 82 in the peripheral wall 47, likewise to consistently locate the spring element 60 by preventing axial shifting thereof relative to the peripheral wall 47.

Page 24, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

A still further variation of the inventive concept is shown in Fig. 15 for a tensioning element $100^{6x'}$. The tensioning element $100^{6x'}$ has a body $102^{6x'}$ having a first flexing region $110^{6x'}$ and a second flexing region $112^{6x'}$. A plurality of openings 130 are formed either partially or fully through the

second flexing region $112^{6x'}$. With the openings 130 increasing in size away from a mounting portion $104^{6x'}$, the second flexing region $112^{6x'}$ is progressively more flexible between the first flexing region ~~$110^{6x'}$~~ $102^{6x'}$ and the free end 132 of the body ~~$102^{6x'}$~~ $102^{6x'}$. Other arrangements and configurations of the openings 130 are contemplated. As just examples, the openings 130 in each case can have the same shape and diameter or different shapes and different diameters. The openings 130 in each case decrease the cross-sectional area of the body $102^{6x'}$, as viewed in a plane extending transversely to the length of the body, to thereby change bending characteristics thereat. The cross-sectional area of the body $102^{6x'}$ on opposite lengthwise sides of the body $102^{6x'}$ is greater than the cross-sectional area at the openings 130.

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 24 and 25 as follows:

The two-stage flexing characteristics can also be incorporated by building a hinge portion into the tensioning element. As shown in Fig. 16, the tensioning element $100^{7x'}$ has first and second flexing ~~region~~ regions $110^{7x'}$, $112^{7x'}$ interconnected by a hinge portion 134. The hinge portion 134 has a cross-sectional area, as viewed in a plane extending transversely of the length of the body $102^{7x'}$, that is less than the corresponding cross-sectional area of the first and second flexing regions $110^{7x'}$ and $112^{7x'}$. As a result, the body $102^{7x'}$ will bend in a predetermined manner at the hinge portion 134. The hinge portion 134 could also be made from a different material than that

making up part or all of the remainder of the tensioning element $100^{7x'}$, with properties that allow selection of a desired bending characteristic.

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 25 and 26 as follows:

While the tensioning elements 100, 100', 100'', 100''', 100'''', 100''''', $100^{6x'}$, $100^{7x'}$, $100^{8x'}$ have been shown to have bodies 102, 102', 102'', 102''', 102'''', 102''''', $102^{6x'}$, $102^{7x''}$, and $102^{8x'}$ that are made from a flat sheet stock material, this configuration is not critical. As just one other example, as shown in Figs. 18 and 19, the tensioning element [[100^{8x}]] $\underline{100^{9x'}}$ may be made in a generally cylindrical form. In this embodiment, the body $102^{9x'}$ has first and second flexing regions $110^{9x'}$, $112^{9x'}$ with different flexing characteristics to incorporate a two-stage flexing capability. The first flexing region $110^{9x'}$ has a different/greater diameter than the diameter of the second flexing region $112^{9x'}$.

Page 42, please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A bobbin case assembly having a wall structure mountable operably upon a support and defining a first receptacle ~~within which~~ for a supply of thread ~~is stored~~, and a tensioning assembly ~~for exerting a frictional force on the thread extending away from the receptacle to thereby resist drawing of the thread out of the receptacle~~. The tensioning assembly has a first surface

that bears against the thread ~~extending away from the receptacle~~. At least one of the wall structure and tensioning assembly has a second surface. The thread ~~extending away from the receptacle~~ resides between the first and second surfaces ~~so that~~ through which the frictional force on the thread is generated ~~between the first and second surfaces. At least one of the first and second surfaces is defined by a~~. A body ~~that~~ is bendable to ~~thereby allow one of the first and second surfaces to be moved~~ so that one of the first and second surfaces is movable selectively towards and away from the other ~~of the first and second surfaces~~. ~~The body has a mounting portion and a flexing portion which projects away from the mounting portion. The~~ A flexing portion on the body is bendable relative to ~~the~~ mounting portion and has [[a]] first ~~flexing region and a~~ and second flexing ~~region~~ regions. The second flexing region is more flexible ~~in bending~~ relative to the first flexing region than the first flexing region is flexible ~~in bending~~ relative to the mounting portion. The first surface is ~~defined~~ on the second flexing region.